

## **Trends Analysis Committee Meeting Notes**

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**Meeting held June 7, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Child and Family Services Administrative Building**

*In attendance:* Aude Bermond-Hamlet, Darla Taylor (by phone), Dawn Hollingsworth, Del Bircher, John Perkins, Kevin Jackson, Marty Shannon, Nancy Barowski, Reba Nissen, Sam Syphrett (by phone), Tanya Alborno, Tonya Myrup, Vanessa Amburgey

### **Follow-up on Last Meeting's Notes and Assignments**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Decisions/Assignments</b>
DSPD Placements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tanya explained how we apply waivers for DSPD children. Most of these children have individualized permanency as their goal. We need to look at what is the best permanency option for these children.</li><li>• Northern Region has been looking at this as well. Usually, the needs of the child are very severe and providers do not want to lose money and services by adopting the children.</li><li>• It is important for caseworkers to understand that providers will not lose all money and services if they adopt the children.</li><li>• It was suggested that a workgroup be formed to look at what options we have for these children.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Tanya</b> will get an updated list of these children and send it to <b>Aude</b>, who will then send it to the group. Caseworkers will then be contacted to see what can be done to find permanency for these children.</li></ul>
Changes to case type codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In-Home Services codes are being changed.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Navina</b> will give the group an update at the next meeting.</li></ul>
Tracking number of youth being adopted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The group wanted to see if adoptions of youth aging out of care are changing since implementing permanency roundtables.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Aude</b> will ask <b>Navina</b> if we can track these data.</li></ul>
Data problems around permanency measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In the last quarterly report, it was noted that permanency data looked inaccurate (CFSR data). Vanessa and Navina are looking at the coding for these data and may need to call in a specialist to help resolve the problem. Vanessa explained that these measures will not be available until the problem is fixed.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Vanessa</b> will give an update on this item at the next meeting. If the data is available before then, Aude will send it out to the group.</li></ul>

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### **Current Quarterly Report**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Decisions/Assignments</b>
Intake: Percent referral calls accepted/unaccepted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OSR noticed that the percentage of referrals being accepted/unaccepted is very different between regions and has fluctuated greatly in the last year or two. Aude presented a graph that shows the discrepancies between regions. This should be corrected with Centralized Intake.</li> <li>The changes to DVRCA should also affect how many referrals are accepted (Del is tracking these data).</li> <li>These data will continue to be tracked by region after Centralized Intake is established.</li> <li>Centralized Intake will be utilizing the SDM tools and is currently validity testing the tools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
CPS: Correlation between lower substantiation rate and fewer children coming into care?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of CPS investigations remains consistent. But the percent of supported investigations has declined. Not sure why. This is not yet influenced by the changes to DVRCA rules. It is expected that with the new DVRCA rules, the number of accepted referrals should decline (only "tougher" DV cases will be accepted for investigation), but the number of supported CPS cases should increase.</li> <li>Face-to-face contact is around 90 percent.</li> <li>We have seen a reduction in the number of children coming into care. It was suggested to look at the number of children coming into care through CPS investigations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DVRCA data will be looked at during the next meeting to see what the trends are.</li> </ul>
In-Home Services: Fewer In-Home Services cases and other trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of In-Home Services cases is declining (except in Western Region).</li> <li>The committee wondered if this was specific to PSC, PSS, or other In-Home Services case types. This may be monitored over time.</li> <li>The number of supported CPS cases after the family has received In-Home Services has been declining.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Out-of-Home Care: Decline in timeliness of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of SCF cases coming in with alcohol and/or drugs as</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aude will ask Navina if</li> </ul>

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initial plans in SCF cases and other items	<p>contributing factors is declining. Is this data entered in SAFE correctly? Ongoing workers need to go back and verify these data. We may want to include these data on the CFA. These data may also be pulled from the CANS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timeliness of the initial SCF plans is decreasing.</li> </ul>	<p>alcohol and/or drugs as contributing factors data element can be extracted from the CFA or the CANS.</p>
Supervisor Finishing Touches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These are being completed on a statewide basis.</li> <li>• The committee suggested that individual scores on the Supervisor Finishing Touches should be used for mentoring only and should not be published in the Quarterly Report.</li> <li>• The data compiled from the Supervisor Finishing Touches do not always match data pulled through SAFE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aude will ask Navina if the scores from the Supervisor Finishing Touches could be eliminated from the Quarterly Report and only leave the numbers of reviews completed.</li> </ul>
Fewer children are re-victimized after leaving SCF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These data are trending downward.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
Adoption measures and other Permanency Composite measures, including placement stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These data will be updated when the problem with the system is resolved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vanessa will let Aude know when the data is fixed.</li> </ul>
Kinship: Preliminary placements with kin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These data show that about one-quarter of children who are removed from their homes are placed with kin. This has remained stable but was slightly higher last year (30%).</li> <li>• Starting soon, a team within DWS will be handling all of our kin caregivers' applications for the Specified Relative Grant and Medicaid, which will make it easier and quicker for our kin families to receive financial help. Our kinship specialists are attending a training session to learn about the new process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aude will follow-up with Judy Hull to see if caseworkers will be alerted to work with their kinship specialists when working with a kin caregiver.</li> <li>• Kinship specialists will work with their regions to let caseworkers know about the process of working with the new DWS team.</li> </ul>
Caseloads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPS caseloads remain steady over time. Out-of-Home Care and In-Home Services peaked last summer but have started to come down slightly since then.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of caseworkers employed has declined slightly since 2009. However, support positions have been eliminated due to budget constraints.</li><li>• Each region has caseworkers that work on both In-Home Services and Out-of-Home Care cases, which makes it difficult to determine caseloads.</li><li>• Legislative auditors reviewed how caseloads were calculated. The auditors made suggestions of how these should be calculated, and changes were made due to their recommendations for the first quarter of 2011.</li></ul>	
Completion of Practice Model Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• These data show how many employees have completed Practice Model training – it does not show how many have partially completed the training.</li><li>• Each region shows different percentages. This may be a data entry problem. Reba explained that the new employees in SLV region used the revised Practice Model training courses and these were not entered in SAFE yet and thus weren't included in this data measure.</li><li>• Practice Model training curriculum will be revised as of July 1, 2011.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reba will report about the new Practice Model training next time.</li><li>• The group will review these data at the next meeting.</li></ul>

### **Next Trends Analysis Committee Meeting:**

**The next meeting was scheduled for September 27, but has to be rescheduled.**

**Proposed dates are:**

**Sept. 13, Oct. 4, Oct. 11.**